

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

[Fed Survey: Recovery Spreads Across Country:](#) The economic recovery is finally spreading to all parts of the country. But the modest pace of growth suggests companies won't be ramping up hiring to quickly drive down unemployment. [
NPR,
6.9.10]

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

[Demand for timber rises:](#) After three years of depressed timber markets, prices are increasing because of strong demand for forest products and low inventories of logs following the year's wettest months. [
MS Business Journal, 6.8.10]

[Builders see more business:](#) One traditional sign the economy is rebounding is when more builders see more business. More building means an increase in the demand for more wood materials for this construction. The employees at Roseburg Forest Products in Oxford are tickled to be taking more orders for their products. [
Oxford Eagle,
6.7.10]

Monday, June 7, 2010

[Calhoun unemployment among Mississippi's lowest:](#) Calhoun County's unemployment rate dropped slightly in April, elevating it to among the lower rates in the state according to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. [
Calhoun County Journal,
6.7.10]

[Panola County's newest employment figures:](#) Panola County's 2010 unemployment rate is still dropping, going from 14.6 percent in March to 13.6 percent in April. [

The Panolian,
6.4.10]

Thursday, June 3, 2010

[Twin Creeks breaks ground for plant:](#) Twin Creeks Technologies has broken ground for its new solar panel manufacturing facility in Senatobia. [*MS Business Journal,*
6.1.10]

[County's Jobless Rate Continues Slight Decline:](#) Yalobusha County's unemployment rate is still dropping for the year going from 15.4 percent in March to 14.5 percent in April. [*North Mississippi Herald,*
6.2.10]

[Unemployment Insurance Weekly claims decrease:](#) In the week ending May 29, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 453,000, a decrease of 10,000 from the previous week's revised figure of 463,000. The 4-week moving average was 459,000, an increase of 1,750 from the previous week's revised average of 457,250.

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

According to the Conference Board, Consumer Confidence index has reached its highest level since March 2008. The index rose 5.6 points to 63.3 in May, marking its third consecutive increase. The proportion of respondents expecting more jobs over the next six months is at its highest level since 2004.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, real disposable personal income rose 0.5% in April, the largest increase since May 2009. Total personal income increased 0.4% and is up 2.5% for the year.

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

[DeSoto County's unemployment falls:](#) DeSoto County's unemployment rate improved for the second straight month in April, falling to 8.4 percent and putting the county sixth statewide in terms of workers with jobs. [*DeSoto Times Tribune*, 5.31.10]

[Lafayette County's unemployment rate dips again:](#) In the first four months of 2010, Lafayette County's unemployment rate has dropped from 10.3 percent in January to 8.2 percent in April, according to a new jobs report. [*Oxford Eagle*, 5.28.10]

[Caye home furnishings closing; 600 to lose jobs:](#) After several recent announcements that touted good news about furniture jobs, a big dose of bad news hit Tuesday. [*NEMS Daily Journal*, 6.1.10]

Friday, May 28, 2010

[Ripley plant expansion could add 200 jobs](#) : For the second time in a week, a Northeast Mississippi furniture manufacturer has announced expansion plans. [*NEMS Daily Journal*, 5.28.10]

Thursday, May 27, 2010

[Around the Region: Unemployment down to 10.7%](#) :The state Department of Employment Security says Mississippi's unemployment rate was 10.7 percent in April. [*DeSoto Commercial Appeal*, 5.27.10]

[Local builders busier](#) : Building may not be booming, but it's far from a bust. [*Oxford Eagle*, 5.2 6.10]

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

[CBO's Estimates of ARRA's Impact](#) : Looking at recorded spending to date as well as estimates of the other effects of ARRA on spending and revenues, CBO has estimated the law's impact on employment and economic output using evidence about the effects of previous similar policies on the economy and using various mathematical models that represent the workings of the economy. On that basis, CBO estimates that in the first quarter of calendar year 2010, ARRA's policies:

- Raised the level of real (inflation-adjusted) gross domestic product (GDP) by between 1.7 percent and 4.2 percent,
- Lowered the unemployment rate by between 0.7 percentage points and 1.5 percentage points,
- Increased the number of people employed by between 1.2 million and 2.8 million, and
- Increased the number of full-time-equivalent (FTE) jobs by 1.8 million to 4.1 million compared with what those amounts would have been otherwise. (Increases in FTE jobs include shifts from part-time to full-time work or overtime and are thus generally larger than increases in the number of employed workers.)

Monday, May 24, 2010

From the National Association of Manufacturer's: Housing starts rose a solid 5.8 percent in April, the third increase in the past four months. After falling to an all-time low in March, housing completions, which typically lag starts by close to a year, rose 19.2 percent last month, the fastest monthly pace since August 1983.

The homebuyer tax credit, which expired at the end of April, has spurred construction activity recently and will likely have some positive impact in the upcoming months. However, the fact that new permits fell to the lowest level in six months in April shows that the housing recovery

is still swimming upstream, due in part to the continued high number of distressed properties on the market.

[Southern Motion to add 200 jobs in Pontotoc](#) : Although the furniture industry in Northeast Mississippi laid off about 1,000 workers last year, companies have picked up their hiring in recent months. [*NEMS Daily Journal*, 5.24.10]

[Economists More Optimistic on Economy](#) : Economists forecast the pace of U.S. growth to pick up in the year ahead as consumers and businesses alike accelerate spending, according to a new survey. [*WCBI*, 5.24.10]

Friday, May 21, 2010

[Fiberglass plant adds 30 jobs in Olive Branch](#) . Guardian Fiberglass Inc. announced Thursday it is expanding operations at its Olive Branch facility, creating 30 new jobs. [*DeSoto Commercial Appeal*, 5.21.10]

Thursday, May 20, 2010

[Record growth among entrepreneurs in U.S.](#) More entrepreneurs launched new businesses in 2009 than at any other time in the past 14 years, according to a study released Thursday. [*The Hill*, 5.20.10]

[Fed expects GDP to expand, unemployment rate to fall this year](#) . Just as a deepening debt crisis in Europe threatens the world economy, the U.S. recovery is finally starting to gain traction, leading Federal Reserve officials and private analysts to upgrade their expectations for growth. [*Washington Post*, 5.20.10]

[Unemployment Insurance Weekly claims increase](#) : In the week ending May 15, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 471,000, an increase of 25,000 from the previous week's revised figure of 446,000. The 4-week moving average was 453,500, an increase of 3,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 450,500.

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

According to the Federal Reserve, industrial production has increased a cumulative 6.8% during the past 10 months, the largest 10-month gain since 1997. Total industrial production increased 0.8% in April. Together with last month's jobs report, this suggests a strong start to output for the second quarter. The increase, slightly above market expectations, was led by a strong 1.0% growth in manufacturing output.

Friday, May 14, 2010

[Report: State has lowest credit card debt](#) . Despite the recession, Mississippians have managed to keep their credit card debt in check — at least compared to the rest of the nation. The state had the least amount of credit card debt in April. [
MS Business Journal,
5.14.10]

Thursday, May 13, 2010

[State's foreclosure rate plummets](#) . Foreclosure actions against Mississippi homeowners fell 29 percent from March to April. [
MS Business Journal, 5.13.10]

[Jobless Claims Fall Slightly](#) . The number of U.S. workers filing new claims for jobless benefits fell slightly for a fourth consecutive time last week as the labor market slowly continues to improve. [
Wall Street Journal, 5.13.10]

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

[Tax bills in 2009 at lowest level since 1950](#) . Amid complaints about high taxes and calls for a smaller government, Americans paid their lowest level of taxes last year since Harry Truman's presidency, a USA TODAY analysis of federal data found. [

USA Today,
5.12.10]

Friday, May 7, 2010

Today we received encouraging news. The economy created 290,000 jobs last month – 231,000 of them in the private sector. This is the largest number of new jobs in four years and the fourth consecutive month of job growth.